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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/768,372	01/23/2001	Edmund David Blackshear	YOR919980001US2	3703

7590

05/09/2002

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EXAMINER

CUNEO, KAMAND

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

9/768372

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Cureo

Group Art Unit

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/1/02
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 13-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/23/01 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 2
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election of claims 1-12 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Claims 13-18 will be rejoined at allowance if they contain every limitation of an allowed claim and do not contain any section 112 errors.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to for the following reasons.

The writing on the drawings is blurred and difficult to read.

Drawing corrections in compliance with MPEP 608.02(v) are required in response to this office action.

Treatment of Claims Based on Language and Format

3. 35 USC 112, second paragraph, states:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 7 recite the functional language "operable to accommodate expansion

mismatch." It is unclear to the examiner whether the recited function follows from the already recited structure or whether applicant intends to somehow define a further structure of the contact area. Examiner assumes the former. If the latter is true, examiner is uncertain what structure applicant intends to claim. As such, the scope of the claim becomes indefinite. If applicant is only reciting intended use, upon clarification of the record, this rejection will be withdrawn.

Treatment of Claims Based on Prior Art

5. 35 USC 102 includes the following sections which state:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 10, are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Cornell et al. (US 6184581, hereafter Cornell).

Figure 3 discloses the interface, the first and second portions being the two sides of the interface which are joined through the conductive joints, and the conductive joints having the claimed width to length proportions. The second portion of the interface is taken to be the mating substrate, and this portion is orthogonal with respect to a common direction.

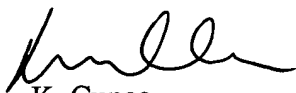
7. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 10, are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoneda (US 6229711).

Figure 1 discloses the interface, the first and second portions being the two sides of the interface which are joined through the conductive joints, and the conductive joints (5) having the claimed width to length proportions. The second portion of the interface is taken to be the mating substrate, and this portion is orthogonal with respect to a common direction.

8. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by figures 5a and 5b of Dordi (US 5859474).

Closing

9. Any inquiries related to the examination of this application should be directed to Ex. K. Cuneo at (703) 308-1233 or her supervisor SPE David L. Talbott at (703) 305-9883. Inquiries of a general nature should be directed to the receptionist of Group 2800 at (703) 308-0956. The fax numbers for Group 2800 are (703) 308-7722 and 7724.



K. Cuneo
Primary Examiner
May 6, 2002